

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

D.T.E. 03-65

July 2, 2003

Petition of Blackstone Gas Company for authorization and approval of long-term debt not to exceed \$600,000, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14.

Blackstone Gas Company, ("Company") has filed a petition with the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") requesting approval for the Company to issue long-term debt in an amount not to exceed \$600,000. G.L. c. 164, § 14 requires gas companies to obtain the approval of the Department prior to issuing indebtedness payable at a period of more than one year. According to the Company, it will use the proceeds from the loans for re-financing of existing long-term debt, the re-financing of short-term debt balances, or to reimburse the Company's treasury for expenditures.

The Department has scheduled a public hearing to receive comments on the Company's petition on Monday, August 4th, 2003, at 1:00 p.m., at the Department's offices, One South Station, 2nd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. Immediately following the public hearing, the Department will hold an evidentiary hearing on this matter.

A copy of the Company's petition and filing is available for inspection Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., at the Department's offices at One South Station, 2nd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts, and at the offices of the Company, 61 Main Street, Blackstone, Massachusetts.

Any person who desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of the proceeding concerning the above petition must file an original and two copies of a written petition for leave to intervene not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Friday, July 28, 2003, with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA. 02110, and one copy with the Company's attorney: Andrew J. Newman, Rubin and Rudman, 50 Rowes Wharf, Boston, MA 02110, (617) 330-7000.

A petition to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 C.M.R. § 1.03, including a description of the manner in which the petitioner is substantially and specifically affected by this proceeding. Receipt by the Department -- not mailing --

constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A late filed petition may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown under 220 C.M.R. § 1.01 (4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 C.M.R. § 1.03 (1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10.

Please submit all filings to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods:

(1) by e-mail attachment to dte.efiling@state.ma.us; or (2) on a 3.5" disk, IBM-compatible format. The text of the e-mail or the disk label must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding [D.T.E. 03-65], (2) name of the person or company submitting the filing, and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and phone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be written in either Word Perfect (naming the document with a ".wpd" suffix), in Microsoft Word (naming the document with a ".doc" suffix) or as an Adobe PDF file (naming the document with a ".pdf" suffix). Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. All comments submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's web site: <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>.